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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 4 (g)
Ongoing priorities and themes

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues requests the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to provide a report to the annual sessions of the Forum regarding progress on the Programme of Action of the Decade and, invites States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' and other non-governmental organizations to provide information to the Coordinator in that regard.

2. The Forum expresses appreciation to the Governments and agencies that have made contributions to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, including earmarked contributions for projects under the Second International Decade, and invites Governments and agencies to continue supporting the Trust Fund so that it may respond to the heavy demands on its resources, especially those from indigenous organizations and communities.

3. The Forum expresses appreciation to the Government of Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government for hosting the Workshop on Partnership Visions for the Second Decade in Nuuk, Greenland, from 14 to 15 February 2006. In addition to endorsing the recommendations contained in the report of the workshop (E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2, paras. 50-76), the Forum endorses and draws the attention of Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and other actors to the "Elements of good (effective and efficient) partnerships" contained in the conclusions of the same report (paras. 38-47).

4. The Forum recommends that the mandate and coverage of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations be expanded to include indigenous peoples' participation in the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, so as to ensure the respect for indigenous peoples' rights in the mainstream discussions and negotiations on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

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5. Linkages/relations with the Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened, inter alia, by ensuring that the chairpersons of the Commission and the Forum are invited to present statements at each other's annual meetings and that cooperation between the secretariats of the Commission and the Forum is enhanced.

6. The Forum welcomes the implementation by the Russian Federation of its recommendation (E/2005/43-E/C.19/2005/9, para. 144) on the creation of a national organizational committee for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, in which the indigenous peoples fully participate, and urges other countries to undertake similar initiatives. The Forum is ready for close cooperation and coordination of activities with all similar organizations on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

7. The Forum recommends that funders support fuller, effective participation by indigenous peoples at the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This includes support for:

- Preparatory activities of consulting indigenous peoples' organizations during the intersessional period
- Drafting of the policy and discussion papers submitted by each major group as a contribution to the Secretary-General's report
- The identification of indigenous participations who can best contribute to the various thematic issues under discussion under the UNCSD multi-year programme of the work
- Coordination of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus
- Reporting back and dissemination of information to indigenous peoples after the meeting.

8. The Forum supports the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting calling upon the General Assembly to declare an International Day for Biological Diversity. An international day on biodiversity, with a focus on indigenous peoples, biodiversity and cultural diversity, can be added to the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) in the calendar of activities of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

9. National mechanisms established for the implementation of Agenda 21, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Millennium Development Goals and activities for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People are encouraged to include a focal point for indigenous issues, including responsibility for communication, education and public awareness activities.

10. The Forum recommends that Governments, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations elaborate and develop strategies and action plans for communication, education and public awareness on indigenous issues during the Second International Decade, addressing different audiences. Toolkits should also be developed for use in the implementation of such plans.

11. The Forum recommends that Governments, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations strengthen the necessary communication, education and information infrastructure and support networks of educators on

indigenous issues. Information and communication technologies for indigenous peoples must be supported to close the technological and information gap.

12. The Forum recommends that Governments, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations strengthen formal and informal education on sustainable development, indigenous issues and biological and cultural diversity.

13. Donors are encouraged to provide additional resources for communication, education and public awareness activities during the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, giving priority to initiatives of indigenous peoples.

14. Welcoming the initiative taken by the World Bank in convening two initial meetings between the Forum and the international financial institutions, the Forum recommends the establishment of a mechanism for regular dialogue between the Forum and the international financial institutions to ensure that the financing of projects and programmes is carried out with the participation and consultation of affected indigenous peoples. The Forum also recommends that an international expert workshop of the Forum on the compliance of international financial institutions with their policies on indigenous peoples be funded by the international financial institutions.